

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 054729  
ORIGIN IO-14

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DRAFTED BY: IO/HR RFTAUBENFELD

APPROVED BY: R F TAUBENFELD

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R 030357Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BAGHDAD 0447 SENT ACTION SECSTATE MARCH 1.

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAGHDAD 0447

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, SREF, PEPR, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQ CRITICIZES US HUMAN RIGHTS STAND

REF: BAGHDAD 333

1. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE BAGHDAD OBSERVER DEVOTED ALMOST A FULL PAGE IN ITS FEB 24 ISSUE TO CRITICISM OF INTERNAL US HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. UNDER TITLE OF "BIG JOKE," ARTICLE CRITICIZES CARTER ADMINISTRATION FOR ITS FAILURE TO DEAL WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PROBLEM, AS WELL AS CYNICISM OF US HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM ABROAD.

2. FRONT PAGE OF SAME ISSUE, AS WELL AS ARABIC PRESS, CARRIED COVERAGE OF BAKR'S MEETING WITH PATRIARCH MAR DINKHA IV OF ASSYRIAN CHURCH, IN WHICH BROTHERHOOD OF ALL IRAQIS UNDER THE BAATH PARTY WAS STRESSED. (BAGHDAD 416)

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3. COMMENT: GOI IS EVIDENTLY STILL SMARTING OVER PUBLICITY GENERATED BY IRAQI CHRISTIANS, WHO ARRIVED IN NEW YORK LAST JANUARY CLAIMING REFUGE FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION. IN ADDITION TO DENOUNCING THE CLAIM AS FRAUDULENT, WHICH IS ACTUALLY THE CASE, IRAQI MEDIA HAVE SPENT SOME EFFORT IN POINTING OUT THAT THE SITUATION IN THE US IS WORSE. IF IRAQ SUCCEEDS IN

OBTAINING A SEAT ON THE ECOSOC HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MINORITIES OF THE  
US HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT FURTHER  
ATTACKS ON OUR OWN DOMESTIC SITUATION AS WELL AS A DEFENSE  
OF IRAQ'S.

PE CK UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Review Markings:**  
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